

**BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

In the Matter of the Revocation or )  
)  
Suspension of the Educator Certificate of )  
)  
Tyler C. Pitt, )  
)  
Certificate 248421 )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

**ORDER OF  
SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

**SUMMARY OF THE CASE**

The Chair of the South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on January 20, 2012. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), § 59-5-10 (2004), and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requested that the Chair of the State Board summarily suspend the educator certificate of Tyler C. Pitt, certificate 248421, as a result of his being arrested on or about December 12, 2011, in Spartanburg County, South Carolina, and being charged with a felony offense, Disseminating Obscene Material to a Person Under Age Eighteen, S.C. Code Ann. § 16-15-345 (2011). The SCDE has reason to believe that, due to the serious nature of these allegations of misconduct, Mr. Pitt may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required. After considering the evidence presented by the SCDE, the Chair of the State Board finds that Mr. Pitt's educator certificate shall be summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Pitt of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

Mr. Pitt holds a professional South Carolina educator certificate and has less than one year of teaching experience. Mr. Pitt was employed by the Newberry County School District (District) as a teacher and coach at Whitmire Community School. Mr. Pitt resigned from the District, effective November 16, 2011, following the District's receipt of allegations that he had participated in electronic communications with a former student that were inconsistent with a professional staff-student relationship. On or about December 12, 2011, Mr. Pitt was arrested in Spartanburg County, South Carolina and was charged with Disseminating Obscene Material to a Person Under Age Eighteen. It is alleged that Mr. Pitt committed the offense between June 6,

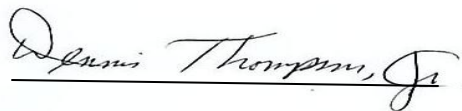
2011, and June 7, 2011. The Chair of the State Board finds that due to the serious nature of these allegations, Mr. Pitt may pose a threat to the safety and welfare of students that may be under his instruction and that emergency action is required to summarily suspend Mr. Pitt's educator certificate.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

"The South Carolina Board of Education may, for just cause, either revoke or suspend the certificate of any person." S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-150 (2004). Just cause includes unprofessional conduct, immorality, any conduct involving moral turpitude, crime against the law of this State, and evident unfitness for position for which employed. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-58 (2011). In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 1-23-370(c) (2004), "If the agency finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action, and incorporates a finding to that effect in its order, summary suspension of a license may be ordered pending proceedings for revocation or other action." Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann § 59-5-10 (2004) and State Board Rule of Governance BBABA, the Chair of the State Board finds that as a result of the allegations of Mr. Pitt's unprofessional conduct, immorality, conduct involving moral turpitude, evident unfitness for position for which employed and his arrest for Disseminating Obscene Material to a Person Under the Age Eighteen, there is reason to believe that Mr. Pitt may pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of students and that emergency action is required. Accordingly, the educator certificate of Tyler C. Pitt, certificate 248421, is summarily suspended until a due process hearing is held and/or this matter is otherwise resolved. The SCDE is directed to serve notice on Mr. Pitt of the summary suspension, as well as the possible suspension or revocation of his educator certificate.

### **AND IT IS SO ORDERED.**

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: 

Columbia, South Carolina  
January 20, 2012